

- said implant body comprising first and second load bearing surfaces spaced apart by a central support member, the central support member having a width narrower than a width of the first and second load bearing surfaces.

36. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein said first and second load bearing surfaces are non-continuous.
37. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein said body is tapered at least at said first end.
38. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein a distance between the first and second load bearing surfaces varies along the longitudinal axis.
39. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein the diameter of the second end is greater than a diameter of the implant at at least one other point along the longitudinal axis.
40. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein said body tapers from said second end to said first end.
41. (New) The implant of claim 40, wherein said body tapers at an angle of 8°.
42. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein said first and second load bearing surfaces include portions of a helical thread pattern.
43. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein said first and second load bearing surfaces include a pattern for anchoring to a vertebral body.
44. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein said central support member extends from said first end to said second end of said implant.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

45. (New) The implant of claim 44, wherein said central support member includes at least one opening therethrough.

46. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein said central support member comprises a plurality of columns.

47. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein said central support member passes through a single plane between diametrically opposed regions of said first and second load bearing surfaces.

48. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein said body is generally "I" shaped in cross-section.

49. (New) An implant for intervertebral fusion between opposing vertebrae, said implant comprising:

- an implant body having a first end and a second end, said body having first and second load bearing surfaces extending along a longitudinal axis of the body, the first and second load bearing surfaces having a width extending perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, said first and second load bearing surfaces being spaced apart by a first height at the first end and a second height at the second end, wherein the first height is less than the second height; and
- said implant body comprising a central support member connecting the first and second load bearing surfaces, the central support member having a width narrower than the width of the first and second load bearing surfaces.

50. (New) The implant of claim 40, wherein the implant body has a continuous taper from the second end to the first end.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

51. (New) An implant for intervertebral fusion between opposing vertebrae, said implant comprising:
- an implant body having an I-shaped cross section, the body having a first end and a second end;
 - said body having first and second load bearing surfaces having a length extending along a longitudinal axis of the body; and
 - said first and second load bearing surfaces being connected by a central support member extending along the length of the load bearing surfaces, the central support member having a width narrower than a width of the first and second load bearing surfaces, the central support member having a first height at the first end and a second height at the second end, wherein the first height is less than the second height.
52. (New) The implant of claim 51, wherein the implant body has a continuous taper from the second end to the first end.